OLR Bill Analysis

HB 7241

AN ACT CONCERNING MINOR AND TECHNICAL CHANGES TO THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION ACT.

SUMMARY

This bill makes various minor and technical changes to the workers’ compensation statutes. It:

1. retitles the workers’ compensation commissioners as “administrative law judges” (§ 1);
2. reduces the frequency with which the workers’ compensation commission’s advisory board must meet from twice to once each quarter (by law, the board evaluates the performance of each compensation commissioner and advises about the list of physicians available to examine injured workers) (§ 2);
3. places the Workers’ Compensation Statistical Division within the Workers’ Compensation Commission’s Management Information Systems Division and eliminates a requirement for the statistical division to be administered by a full-time salaried director appointed by the Workers’ Compensation Commission’s chairman (§ 3);
4. eliminates a provision that places the Workers’ Compensation Commission within the Department of Labor for administrative purposes only (§ 7);
5. eliminates obsolete provisions regarding (a) transferring certain cases to the Second Injury Fund (which has not been allowed since 1995), (b) an expert panel of pulmonologists (which has not met since the 1980s), and (c) the destruction of old workers’ compensation agreements filed in Superior Court (which has been obsolete since the creation of the Compensation Review
Division in 1980 and the subsequent Compensation Review Board) (§7); and

6. makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2019

COMMITTEE ACTION

Labor and Public Employees Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 14    Nay 0    (03/14/2019)